

**NEVADA**  
**FFA ASSOCIATION**  
**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE I- NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The name of the organization shall be the Nevada FFA Association. Recognized units of the Organization may officially use the letters "FFA" and or the words "Future Farmers of America" to designate the Organization, its units and/or members.

**ARTICLE II- OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The objectives of the organization shall be consistent with Section 3 of the organization's federal charter, Public Law 105-225 (formerly Public Law 81-740).

The objectives for which this organization is formed are as follows:

1. To be an integral part of the organized instructional programs in Agriculture Education which develop competent, aggressive, agriculture leaders for careers in agriculture, agribusiness, and natural resource occupations.
2. To develop competent and assertive agriculture leadership.
3. To increase awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
4. To promote the intelligent choice and establishment of an agriculture career.
5. To encourage achievement in supervised agriculture experience programs.
6. To encourage wise management of economic, environmental and human resources of the community.
7. To develop interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction.
8. To build character and promote citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism.
9. To promote cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.
10. To strengthen the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
11. To promote healthy lifestyles.
12. To encourage excellence in scholarship.

## **ARTICLE III- ORGANIZATION**

### **Section A**

The Nevada FFA Association is composed of chartered local chapters in schools having recognized systematic instruction in agriculture education, which includes preparation for occupations in agriculture/business. Chapters shall operate as an integral part of the instructional program of agricultural education. Such programs must be operated under the provisions of the National Vocational Acts and the Nevada State Plan for Career and Technical Education.

### **Section B**

Members of local chapters shall meet, organize, and adopt a constitution not in conflict with State or National Constitutions, as their own, elect officers, set up a program of work, and then apply to the State FFA Office for membership in the State Association. After this application has been approved by the State Executive Board, the members of the local chapter may then be known as Future Farmers of America or FFA.

## **ARTICLE IV- PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING STANDING OF CHARTERED LOCAL CHAPTERS AND MEMBERS**

### **Section A**

Annual membership in the Nevada Association, including the FFA publication and all other privileges, shall be accomplished by chapter affiliation with the state organization via a Curriculum Packet Program which requires each chapter to affiliate all students enrolled in agriculture education classes at that school. The fee for curriculum packets shall be fixed by the State Advisor and the Nevada Agriculture Teachers Association during their annual Summer Conference. Individual subscriptions to the National FFA Magazine, Nevada Supervised Agriculture Education Record Book, and a copy of the National FFA Manual shall be included in and paid for from the Nevada Association Curriculum Packet fees. Chapters must submit list of all enrolled agriculture education students and curriculum packet fees by October 15th.

### **Section B**

A chapter is in good standing with the state association when Curriculum Packets have been purchased from the state office in a number equal to or exceeding the number of non-duplicated students enrolled in agriculture education classes at the school. A member shall retain his/her active membership until October 15 following the fiscal year expires on June 30.

A chapter shall retain its good standing upon remitting payment for the required number of Curriculum Packets. It may retain its standing on the basis of the previous membership and paid Curriculum Packets until October 15 following the end of the regular fiscal year. After this date, a member or chapter may not take part in any FFA activity until sufficient Curriculum Packets are purchased to be in good standing. To participate in state activities, a member must be appropriately affiliated via the Curriculum Packet Program prior to the date of the activity.

If a chapter doesn't purchase the Curriculum Packet, the Nevada FFA Association will provide written notification to the agriculture teacher, principal, and school district CTE director that the chapter and its members cannot participate in statewide activities. The chapter can operate on a local level using its chapter name until October 15. If at that time, the chapter hasn't purchased the Curriculum Packet, then written notification will be sent to National FFA, the agriculture teacher, principal, and school district CTE director that the chapter is no longer in good standing and therefore cannot operate using the FFA name and shall be denied the privileges of affiliation with Nevada and National FFA.

### Section C

Membership in the Nevada FFA Association and in the national organization shall be based upon the list of names submitted to the State FFA Office with the purchase of Leadership Packets. Students whose names have not been submitted to the state office are not members regardless of whether they are carrying a current membership card.

## **ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP**

### Section A

Membership in this organization shall be of four kinds: (1) Active, (2) Alumni, (3) Collegiate, and (4) Honorary.

### Section B

"Active Membership" - Students who are regularly enrolled in an accredited all day or day-unit classes in agriculture education are entitled to become active members of a chartered FFA chapter in the school in which they are enrolled, when properly affiliated with the state organization as prescribed in Article IV of this constitution.

To retain active membership while in high school, a student must;

1. Be regularly enrolled in an agriculture education course or must have completed all the agriculture education courses offered in their school. The course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career.
2. Show an interest in the affairs of the organization by attending meetings, striving for degrees of membership and participating in other organized activities of the chapter.
3. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.

Members may retain active membership until November 30 following the fourth National FFA Convention after graduating from high school.

Members in good standing at the time of their induction into the Armed Forces of the United States of America or into the FFA International Program shall be in good standing during the period of their service without standard affiliation requirements or attendance at meetings. Time spent in the Armed Forces or FFA International Program shall not be considered as elapsed time in determining the maximum period of four conventions

following graduation from high school or leaving high school. Should such time of participation in FFA International Programs fall during a member's constitutional eligibility to run for State FFA Office, that member shall be guaranteed the right to run for State FFA Office during the first State FFA Convention following his/her return to the United States provided all other membership and eligibility requirements have been met. Members making use of this waiver of service time, for the purpose of maintaining active membership for application of advanced degrees, or to maintain eligibility as a candidate for State FFA Office, must resume active participation within six months after having been honorably discharged from service or completing their FFA International Program, indication such a desire by meeting all standard affiliation requirements and attendance at meetings. Members participating in the six months Armed Services Program or participating in the FFA International Program for six months shall be eligible for one full year of extended membership. No one, however, may retain active membership beyond his/her 23rd birthday.

Members still in high school, transferring to a local chapter in Nevada from another state of the United States, who present satisfactory evidence of their good standing in that state, shall be accredited as members in good standing in the Nevada Association.

A student who is out of high school and wishes to maintain FFA affiliation may only do so as a member of the FFA chapter to which he/she belonged at the time of leaving high school. Both membership and participation in FFA activities must be under the auspices of that chapter. Changing chapter affiliation after leaving high school may be approved only when the student's parent/legal guardian move their place of permanent residence after the student has left high school. In such an instance FFA membership may be transferred to the FFA chapter if there is no chapter serving that school district, provided the local FFA advisor at the new chapter approves of the transfer.

### Section C

"Alumni Membership"- membership shall be open to former active members, collegiate and honorary members, present and former professional agricultural educators, parents of FFA members and others interested in and supportive of the FFA.

### Section D

"Collegiate Membership"- collegiate membership may include students enrolled in agriculture courses or who are pursuing career objectives in the industry of agriculture or have an interest in the future welfare of the agriculture industry who are enrolled in a two or four year postsecondary institution having a collegiate FFA chapter.

### Section E

"Honorary Membership"- farmers, school superintendents, principals, members of boards of education, instructors, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agriculture education, businesspeople, and others, who are helping to advance agricultural education and the FFA and who have rendered outstanding service, may be elected by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting or convention.

Honorary membership shall be limited to Honorary Chapter FFA Degree in the local chapter, the Honorary State FFA Degree in the State Association.

## **ARTICLE VI- ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES**

### **Section A**

Greenhand FFA degree, Minimum qualifications for election:

1. Be regularly enrolled in a class in agriculture education and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
2. Learn and explain the FFA Creed, motto, salute and FFA Mission Statement.
3. Demonstrate a knowledge of the history of the organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws and the chapter Program of Activities.
4. Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
5. Demonstrate a knowledge of the FFA code of ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
6. Personally own or have access to the Official FFA Manual and the FFA Student Handbook.
7. Submit a written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.
8. Worked five hours in support of an advisor approved community service project.

### **Section B**

Chapter FFA Degree, Minimum qualification for election:

1. Must have held the degree of Greenhand preceding election of the Chapter FFA Degree and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities of the local chapter.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least 180 hours of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program, and be regularly enrolled in an agricultural education class.
3. Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$500 by the member's own efforts or worked at least one hundred and forty hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program.
5. Be familiar with the purpose and programs of work of the State Association and National Organization.

6. Be familiar with the provisions of the constitution to the local chapter.
7. Have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
8. Have effectively led a group discussion for fifteen minutes.
9. Show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award programs.
10. Have a satisfactory scholastic record.
11. Have participated in at least 15 hours of community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.
12. Submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

### Section C

State FFA Degree-To be eligible to receive the State FFA Degree from the state association, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
2. Have been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.
3. While in school, have completed the equivalent of at least two years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$2,000 or worked at least 600 hours in excess of scheduled class time in a supervised agricultural experience program. Any combination of hours, times a factor of 3.33, plus actual dollars earned and productively invested must be equal to or greater than the number 2,000. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for the degree. (effective fall of 2013)
5. Demonstrate leadership ability by:
  - a. Performing 10 procedures of parliamentary law.
  - b. Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA.
  - c. Serving as an officer, committee chairperson, or participating member of a chapter committee.
6. Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local agricultural education instructor and the principal or superintendent.
7. Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter Program of Activities.

- a. Have participated in at least five different FFA activities above the chapter level.
9. Have participated in at least 25 hours of community service, within at least 2 different community service activities approved by the local advisor. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.

Written records of achievement of all requirements, verified by the chapter FFA advisor, shall be submitted to the state association at least one month prior to the state FFA convention at which the State Degree is to be received. The state advisor shall provide for review of the records and submit a recommendation to the state association governing body, which shall nominate at the state FFA convention the candidates who have been found worthy to receive the honor. The State FFA Degree will be conferred upon the candidates subject to approval by the delegates at the state convention.

## **ARTICLE VII- MEETINGS**

### **Section A**

A meeting of the Nevada FFA Association will be held annually and at least 120 days prior to the meeting of the National Convention. The location of the convention will be determined by the State Executive Committee.

Each local chapter shall be entitled to three delegates at the State Convention, who shall represent the local chapter in balloting for members who are nominated to be advanced to the "State FFA Degree" and all convention business.

### **Section B**

Local chapters shall hold their meeting at least monthly and at such time and place as may be decided upon by the Executive Committee of the local chapter.

### **Section C**

Zone meetings will be held at the time of Leadership Camp to install officers and conduct any other business pertinent at said time. Each zone will hold at least one other meeting per year to set the dates of initiation, contests, and discuss any matter that may be presented.

## **ARTICLE VIII- EMBLEM**

### **Section A**

The official emblem of the National FFA Association shall include five symbols, namely: the plow, representing labor and tillage of the soil; the owl, representing wisdom; the rising sun, representing progress; a cross-section of an ear of corn, representing common agricultural interests; and an American eagle surmounting the cross-section of the ear of corn- representing the national scope of the organization. The emblem shall also include the letters "FFA," and the words "Agricultural Education."

Emblems shall be uniform for all chapters.

## Section B

Greenhand FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official bronze emblem pin; Chapter FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official silver emblem pin; State FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm; and American FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem key.

## **ARTICLE IX- STATE MANAGEMENT**

### Section A

The State Executive Committee of the Nevada State FFA Organization shall consist of the State Officers, State Advisor, NV Dept. of Agriculture, Agriculture Literacy Coordinator, and the Executive Director

1. The State Executive Committee Designee and one member from each chapter in attendance shall serve as the Nomination Committee for State Officers. Each member of the Nomination Committee shall have one vote. All members of the committee shall remain in the committee room until nominations are completed.
2. The State Executive Committee will select the candidates for the American FFA Degree.

### Section B

The State President shall appoint annually an auditing committee, a program of work committee, and any other committee deemed necessary. These committees will serve at the annual convention. The Auditing Committee shall audit the books of the State Association.

### Section C – Governing Board

1. The governing board of the organization shall be Nevada FFA Board of Directors, which shall consist of:
  - a. State FFA Advisor of the Nevada FFA Association
  - b. President of the Nevada Agriculture Teachers Association (NATA) or a representative appointed by the NATA
  - c. President of the Nevada FFA Association
  - d. Member of the Nevada FFA Alumni, nominated and selected by the FFA foundation board of directors
  - e. Twelve persons to be selected by the Board of Directors of the FFA Foundation, all of whom must have an interest in the agriculture industry and youth
  - f. Executive Director shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member
2. The terms of office of members of the Nevada FFA Board of Directors and the method of selection of such members, other than the ex-officio members, shall be prescribed in the Nevada FFA Advisory Board's By-Laws.
3. The Nevada FFA Board of Directors shall meet at least twice a year at such time and place as may be prescribed by the board.



4. The board of directors will provide financial oversight for the Nevada FFA Association.

#### Section D - Governing Committee

The governing committee shall consist of the State Officers, State Advisor, NV Dept. of Agriculture, Agriculture Literacy Coordinator, and the Executive Director. This committee shall have the power to deal with items of business of the Nevada FFA Association. The committee will consult the state officers and Nevada Agriculture Teachers Association on an as needed basis. All official actions of the Governing Committee shall be reported to the Nevada FFA Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE X- FEES**

#### Section A

Registration fee for the State Convention shall be fixed each year by the Executive Committee, so as to cover the cost of awards, national and state officer expenses.

### **ARTICLE XI- AMENDMENTS**

#### Section A

Amendments to the State Constitution and/or by-laws shall be submitted in writing by the delegates from any chapter three weeks before any annual State Convention of FFA. These Proposed amendments must be submitted to the State Executive Committee, which shall, in turn, submit them to the delegates at the State Convention with recommendation. Amendments must be adopted by a two-thirds vote of delegates present.

## **BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I**

All provisions of these by-laws are considered a part of the Constitution of the Nevada FFA Association.

### **ARTICLE II**

The principle office of the State Association shall be the same as that of the Executive Director.

### **ARTICLE III**

The alignment of the chapter will be determined by the delegates to the State Convention. There shall be three principle zones - northern zone, western zone, and southern zone. The major criteria for alignment will be the number of chapters and travel distance. Alignment shall be determined by the voting delegation during state FFA convention. The Northern zone shall

consist of Battle Mountain, Wells, Ruby Mountain, Duck Valley, Silver Sage, Diamond Mountain, McDermitt, Smoky Valley and Winnemucca. Western zone shall consist of Churchill, Carson Valley, Nile Valley, Mason Valley, Sierra Nevada, Capitol, North Valleys, Fernley, Oasis and Smith Valley. Southern zone shall consist of Moapa Valley, White River, Pahranaagat Valley, Virgin Valley, Lincoln County, Sandy Valley, Canyon Springs, West Career Technical Academy, Mojave and Steptoe Valley.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

- A. The President: It shall be the duty of the president to preside over all state meetings of the Nevada FFA Organization. The president shall appoint all committees and may serve as an ex-officio member of these committees.
- B. The Vice-President: The vice-president shall assume all the duties of the president in the event that the office of president becomes vacant by resignation or otherwise; shall preside over all meeting in the absence of the president and shall assume other duties of the president.
- C. The State Secretary: The student secretary shall perform duties common to such an office, such as keeping an accurate record of all meetings, one copy of which shall be given to the State Advisor for the permanent files and one copy for their files. They shall perform such other duties as is directed to perform by the state advisor or the executive committee.
- D. The State Treasurer shall review the accounts, receipts, and disbursements of the FFA Association on a quarterly basis, and chair an annual audit of the books at the State FFA Convention. They shall review and make a final report to the state delegates.
- E. The State Reporter shall perform such duties common to such office, such as preparing articles for publication, assist with the development of Nevada FFA publications, assist with the collection of data for the official state report, and prepare news notes suitable for publication on all meetings of the state association and develop and maintain a scrapbook of memorabilia in which to record the state's history.
- G. The State Sentinel shall perform duties common to such office, working in cooperation with the other officers to promote the organization. The sentinel should set up the State Convention meeting rooms, attend the door to welcome visitors, introduce all guests, take part in all ceremonies, put up and take down State banners, paraphernalia and equipment, prepare seating charts and seat guests at banquets, help prepare tables for banquets, and assist the president in conducting such meetings.
- H. The State Advisor, NV Dept. of Agriculture, Agriculture Literacy Coordinator, and Executive Director are members of the Executive Committee and ex-officio members of all committees. It is their duty to advise the committees on matters of policy and assist the state officers in conducting meetings and programs. They shall review all the applications for the State FFA Degree. They shall issue charters to all chapters. They shall be in charge of arrangements for the annual State meeting of FFA and perform such other duties as may pertain to the furtherance of the organization. They shall perform duties common to the treasurer's office, such as keeping accounts, acting as custodian of the funds for the organization, keep accurate records of receipts and disbursements, and report to delegates at state meetings and such other supplementary reports as may be

necessary. They shall pay out of the treasury such funds as are budgeted by the executive committee.

- I. When a State Officer defaults and does not fulfill the assigned obligations, a replacement may be selected from his chapter, from previous officer candidates - or left vacant- according to the judgment of the Executive Committee. A substitute may be selected to fill in at the State Convention in case of a vacancy.
  
- J. A State Officer may be removed from office by a majority vote of the Executive Committee for reasons in the judgment of the Executive Committee, which would warrant such action. A letter of warning to the officer will be sent prior to removal unless the committee decides immediate action is needed to protect the integrity of the Nevada FFA Association. The State Officer Commitment (Form A) and State Officer Agreement (Form B) Forms within the State Officer Selection Guidebook will serve as the guiding documents in these decisions.
  
- K. State Officer Selection
  1. State Officer applications must be submitted to the State Advisor postmarked by the third Tuesday prior to the beginning of the State FFA Convention.
  
  2. A written test will be administered to candidates. This test will include questions regarding The National FFA Organization, agriculture, Agriculture and American Education, current issues, Nevada FFA Association, and anything else the executive committee deems pertinent.
  
  3. The Nominating Committee may consist of one member from each chapter. Members of the Nominating Committee must be present at all trainings, interviews, and meetings or they will not be allowed to vote in the officer selection process. The Nominating Committee will be overseen by an adult consultant and the committee will be chaired by a former state officer appointed by the executive committee.
  
  4. No member may participate on the state nominating committee for more than one year.
  
  5. Upon compiling all scores, the adult consultants shall provide the nomination committee with a list of the ten highest scoring candidates for the deliberation process according to total score. Each Nomination Committee member will then vote individually by secret ballot for six candidates who they believe will be best qualified to serve as a state officer. Considering the scores AND individual nominations, the committee will then deliberate and slate six candidates to serve as the next state officer team.
  
  6. Only two officers may be selected from one chapter. If there are two or more candidates from each zone, then at least one officer must be elected from each zone. If only one candidate runs from a zone, that candidate is not guaranteed an office. If less than six qualified state officer candidates run for office, then more than two candidates can be selected from the same chapter.
  
  7. State Officer Candidates must hold the State FFA Degree.
  
  8. Should the situation arise that these rules cannot be followed, the State Advisor will bring this to the attention of the NATA prior to the announcement of selected officers.

9. The following criteria for scoring will be used during state officer selection:

a. Application & Resume	0 pts
b. Written Test	300 pts
c. Interview Rounds	700 pts
TOTAL	1,000pts

### **ARTICLE V - REPORTS**

Each local chapter shall submit the following information to the State Executive Director:

1. An annual statement of the names of local officer, names of delegates to the State meetings and a revised list of members in the local chapter and grades of membership.
2. Program of Work, Curriculum Packet Fees, and current local Constitution and By-laws in state office by October 15th to be eligible for any contest or award.
3. The Annual FFA Chapter report (as requested) shall be submitted by June 15 of each year for a chapter to be in good standing.

### **ARTICLE VI - METHODS OF ISSUING LOCAL CHARTERS**

- A. The Secretaries of the local chapters shall submit with their applications for a charter, the following information:
  1. A copy of their Program of Work
  2. A copy of their Constitution and By-laws
  3. The names, grade of membership, and addresses of local chapter members and officers
- B. The application for chapter to the State Advisor shall be signed by the president, secretary and Advisor of the local chapter. A charter shall be granted upon such application, provided that the proposed local constitution is not in conflict with the State Constitution. The charter must be signed by the State President and by the State Advisor.
- C. A chapter may change its name upon application to the State Executive Committee and approved by a majority of the delegates at a State Convention.
- D. The State Executive Committee shall have power to suspend any charter upon receipt of evidence of infringement of the provisions of the State Constitution by the State Executive Director and Advisor.

### **ARTICLE VII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-laws and the constitution of which they are a part.